



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
23 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0023

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

ANGELA FAHERTY
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT: # IX.B.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Angela Faherty, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: July 14, 2010

SUBJECT: Professional Standards Board Report of Recommendations to the Commissioner and the State Board of Education

BACKGROUND: The Professional Standards Board, referred to in the chapter as the board, was established in Maine statute Title 20-A, Chapter 502-B "to advise the state board regarding professional growth, certification, endorsement, authorization and governance of the education profession in this State." The powers and duties of the board expand on these areas.

The statute defines those who are eligible to be nominated by the education profession and interested persons for positions on the board. The Governor then appoints the 22 members and 2 ex officio members to the Board for terms of three years. Currently the representative from the state board is Ann Weisleder who serves as an ex officio member of the board. The members serve without compensation but the state board is responsible for the mileage and expenses of this board and for furnishing the board with materials, secretarial assistance and meeting facilities. The board shall maintain records and minutes of its meetings and shall file them in the certification office within the department.

The board shall meet five times a year and must have an annual work plan in place by September 1 of each year. After the fifth meeting, "the board shall submit a report by June 30 of each year to the commissioner and the board with its recommendations." After that "the state board shall act on standards definitions or other recommendations within 60 days of presentation to the state board by the board." The state board received an emailed report in the state board assistant's email during regular business hours on June 30, 2010.

The board followed the requirements but had some challenges with consistency in attendance and at the last meeting could not finish the recommendations because there was not a quorum. At that meeting the board discussed ways to improve participation, actions that would improve the conduct of the business of the board, and possibilities for changing the quorum requirements for the next year. The statute does not address a quorum for this board. The first meeting for the 2010-2011 year is scheduled for August 16, 2010.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board move to receive the June 30, 2010 Report of the Professional Standards Board and refer the report to the Certification and Higher Education Committee of the State Board of Education for consideration of the recommendations of the Board; and, that the Committee will then bring to the State Board, within the 60 day requirement, proposed actions on the Professional Standards Board's recommendations.